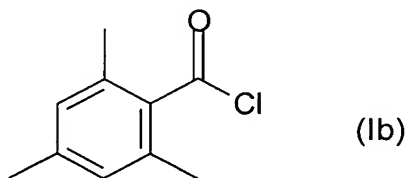


**Claims as enclosed to IPRP**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A process for preparing 3-, 4- or 5-fold- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzoyl chlorides (I), by, in a first stage, reacting a 3-, 4- or 5-fold- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzene (II) with  $CCl_4$  in the presence of  $AlCl_3$  and subsequent hydrolysis of the formed  $AlCl_3$  complex to give the corresponding 3-, 4- or 5-fold- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted trichloromethylated aromatic (III),  
10 and, in a second stage, the trichloromethylated benzene (III) is hydrolyzed with water in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the benzoyl chloride (I), wherein in the second stage the aqueous organic phase from the hydrolysis of the  $AlCl_3$  complex is used, and water-free  $CCl_4$  is distilled off after the hydrolysis.
- 15 2. The process according to claim 1, wherein trimethylbenzoyl chloride of the formula (Ib)



- 20 is prepared from mesitylene as the substituted benzene (II).
3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the molar ratio of  $CCl_4$  to substituted aromatic (II) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.
- 25 4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of  $AlCl_3$  per equivalent of the substituted benzene (II) are used.
5. The process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (III) and  $AlCl_3$  is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C.
- 30 6. The process according to claim 5, wherein the hydrolysis of the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and  $AlCl_3$  is carried out continuously.

7. The process according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the catalyst used in the second stage is  $\text{FeCl}_3$ .